

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 May 2005 (06.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/040402 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G01N 33/573, C12Q 1/37**

(21) International Application Number:  
**PCT/EP2004/011402**

(22) International Filing Date: 12 October 2004 (12.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
**03023854.7 21 October 2003 (21.10.2003) EP**

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
**1 September 2005**

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/040402 A3

(54) Title: **DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS FOR DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH N-ACETYLATED ALPHA-LINKED ACIDIC DIPEPTIDASE 2 (NAALADASE 2)**

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a human NAALADASE 2 which is associated with the cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, gastroenterological diseases, cancer, hematological diseases, neurological diseases, urological diseases, respiratory diseases and reproduction disorders. The invention also provides assays for the identification of compounds useful in the treatment or prevention of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, gastroenterological diseases, cancer, hematological diseases, neurological diseases, urological diseases, respiratory diseases and reproduction disorders. The invention also features compounds which bind to and/or activate or inhibit the activity of NAALADASE 2 as well as pharmaceutical compositions comprising such compounds.